



TOPIC: University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP): University of Maryland College Park Foundation Construction of an Events Center

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

DATE OF MEETING: September 17, 2010

SUMMARY: To accommodate larger events that would include fundraising and a wide range of University initiatives and activities that will continue raising the University's profile and visibility and permit hosting high-level conferences, ambassadors, and guest speakers, the Foundation proposes to construct an Events Center of approximately 6,400 square feet. The Events Center will be located on the western edge of campus adjacent to the existing President's Residence and the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

The University has sorely needed a venue in which to host the level of cultivation and recognition events that help advance its mission and fundraising goals. With an estimated seating capacity of 125 and a standing capacity of approximately 350, the planned venue will greatly enhance business conducted on behalf of the University. The room will have the capability to be divided to accommodate smaller gatherings. The building will also include a catering kitchen, storage space, a loading dock, and office and work space for staff. The Events Center will meet all ADA standards and be designed and constructed to meet a LEED Silver certification.

Therefore, the University of Maryland College Park Foundation requests USM Board of Regents approval to enter the University of Maryland, College Park campus for the purpose of constructing an Events Center. The improvements will be funded with Foundation assets and all design and construction contracts will be secured by and be the responsibility of the Foundation. The Foundation will work closely with the University during the design and construction period and upon completion, will convey its interests in the improvements to the University.

ALTERNATIVES: Although the Foundation and University believe the recommendations herein reflect the most viable solution, the alternatives available would include continuing to host fund raising events in the President's Residence often requiring the installation of tents on site to accommodate guests and dignitaries and/or to locate off campus locations. Neither of these is ideal nor would they benefit from existing on-campus amenities including the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the Comcast Arena as does the recommended location.

FISCAL IMPACT: The cost to design and construct the described improvements will be funded by the Foundation through private donations. The estimated cost for the Events Center is \$5.1 million. The Foundation Board anticipates that the planned Events Center will, in effect, save dollars in the long run. For example, the University hosts nearly 100 events each year at the residence. The new venue will virtually eliminate the need for the tented events that have cost the University approximately \$381,245 since 2004, with an annual cost of approximately \$63,000.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Regents authorize the University of Maryland, College Park to grant access to its property to the University of Maryland College Park Foundation for the purpose of constructing an Events Center, as described above, to be funded from donations received by the Foundation for this purpose; and, delegate to the Chancellor the authority to execute all required documentation following legal review by the Office of the Attorney General and consistent with the appropriate USM policy and procedures. The University and the Foundation shall continue to work with the USM Office of the Chief Operating Officer/Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance during the process.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Joseph F. Vivona (301) 445-1923
